



Building for Missoula's Future

Smart Schools 2020 is a systemwide initiative to develop public school facilities that are working smarter to support the achievement of all students by the year 2020. How? Through improved security, evolved technology and dynamic classroom environments.

Smart school facilities support 21st Century Educational Culture in three ways:

- **Security:** They create a secure environment where all students and teachers can concentrate on learning.
- **Technology:** They allow for rapidly evolving technology to be implemented into education well into the future.
- **Agility:** They feature dynamic layouts that are open and flexible, enabling multiuse, class-to-class collaboration and evolution of curriculum over time.

Smart schools come from intelligent, collaborative decision-making:

- **Our process** has elicited input from every MCPS school – involving strategic teams including parents, teachers, students, administrators and interested citizens.
- **Design options** were determined based on each school's need and the needs of the school system as a whole.
- **Leading the process** is a local firm with considerable national experience developing schools in line with 21st century education principles.
- **Input is welcome** from everyone in the community.
- **The process includes** recommendations, public review, trustee review and more.

Smart school facilities are integral to communitywide scholastic and economic achievement:

- **Missoula** has the top-performing schools in the state in terms of graduation, achievement and dropout rates; we need to continue that trend.
- **Communities** that value education hold the lead in economic development, business startups and salaries.
- **An investment** in our schools is a foundational investment in the success and wealth of Missoula as a whole.

Now is the time to invest in building smarter schools:

- **Cost-effectiveness:** Our school physical infrastructure is aging rapidly. The sooner we begin renovations and updates, the more cost-effective we will be in building expense and long-term maintenance.
- **Community Growth:** Population shifts have put stress on certain schools and eased populations in others.
- **International Competition:** Our students aren't just competing with other Montana communities for scholarships and jobs, but with students from around the world too.
- **Fast Progress:** By 2020 we need to be implementing the plan on the ground, targeting first the highest-need facilities and most important updates.
- **Bonding:** Operational costs such as teacher salaries are covered by state funding, but facilities' costs can only be paid through community bonds.



MISSOULA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
215 S. 6th St. W.
Missoula, MT 59801
(406) 728-2400, Ext. 1024
www.mcpsmt.org